

As the NAACP itself has pointed out, "from the ballot box to the classroom the dedicated workers, organizers, and leaders who forged this great organization and maintain its status as a champion of social justice, fought long and hard to ensure that the voices of African-Americans would be heard." We couldn't have said it any better.

If the Association's history was built on the blood, sweat and tears of its members and supporters who believe in its vision then it has earned its place in our minds and hearts.

Gordon is coming to New York to hail the resuscitation of the Brooklyn Branch, a development which comes a few years before the centennial anniversary of the NAACP itself and which sends a strong and positive signal to people around the country that the organization is vigorous and its future is secure.

We extend our congratulations to Gordon and to the officers and members of the Brooklyn branch that's led by Karen Boykin-Towns.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S WORKING MEN AND WOMEN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to America's working men and women. These are the mineworkers, firefighters, nurses, janitors, postal employees, and hundreds of other workers who often are exposed to serious injury or even death while on the job. Friday, April 28, is Workers Memorial Day, a time when we remember the thousands of Americans who have been killed or injured while doing their jobs.

I also want my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me today in taking a moment to remember Jeffrey Wroten, a Maryland Division of Correction's officer who was killed in January while guarding a hospitalized patient.

This also has been a deadly year for coal miners. In January, 12 miners died during the Sago Mine tragedy, and, Nation Wide, 24 coal miners have lost their lives this year. For the first time since 1994, there has been an increase in workplace fatalities. In 2005, more than 5,700 workers were killed on the job and more than 50,000 Americans died from occupational diseases.

We pledge to them that we will rededicate our efforts to fight for safe working conditions; we pledge to them that we will fight for decent wages; and we pledge to them that we will make sure they have good pensions and health care benefits.

I also want to commend the many unions throughout the Nation that work everyday to protect American workers. The best way to help ensure worker safety is to make sure workers have the freedom to join unions so they can fight for their rights.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring America's working men and women by ensuring they have the rights and protections they need to stay safe on the job.

RECOGNIZING MS. KELLY SMITH AS MILKEN NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of an educator in Baltimore County. Ms. Kelly Smith, chair of the English Department at Dulaney High School in Timonium, MD, is the recipient of the prestigious 2005–06 Milken Educator Award.

The Milken National Educator Award was established by Lowell and Michael Milken. They created the award to celebrate and reward people in the education system showing exemplary work.

This award, acknowledged in Teacher Magazine as the "Oscars of Teaching" was designed to recognize people in the education system who have exceptional talent. Recipients play an instrumental role in developing new and inventive programs of study. These educators help to develop not just the curriculum, but also the students' confidence and self worth.

Dulaney's Kelly Smith has made great strides in the school's English Department. Her tremendous contributions have aided in the school's academic success. She developed "One Book, One Dulaney," a book club, in which students, teachers and parents participate. Throughout the year the club chooses a book to read and later discusses it, opening the lines of communication on all levels.

Ms. Smith also developed and co-chaired Students Organized for Academic Success. SOAR gives assistance to challenged students showing potential for scholastic achievement. She holds study sessions on Saturdays to prepare aspiring college students for the college entrance exam, the SATs.

Under Ms. Smith's leadership, test scores have greatly increased. She implements critical reading, thinking and vocabulary in her classroom. She also incorporates a "Readers' Theatre Project" giving students an opportunity to learn about literature through performance, writing and acting. This creates a new dimension of learning for students. They become a part of the process, which is both fun and educational.

I believe education is the key to success. Today's youth are the future of this country. People like Ms. Smith are shaping the leaders of tomorrow. I applaud all of those who devote their lives to the betterment of the education system.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to commend Ms. Kelly Smith for winning the 2005–06 Milken Educator Award. She is truly an inspiration.

EIGHTY YEARS OF RAZZLE- DAZZLE

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, a son of Massachusetts celebrated his 80th birthday in March.

Bob Crane, who won 11 statewide elections and held elective office for 34 years, is being feted by friends and family for a lifetime of public service and his unbeatable joy of life and politics.

Bob began his service to his country over 60 years ago when he enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 18 during World War II. Bob is a decorated war hero and fought in the bloodiest battle of World War II in Okinawa. This son of Irish immigrants returned after the war to Boston where he attended Boston College, married his lovely Mary, had five great children and began a memorable career in politics.

First elected to the state legislature, Bob served an unprecedented 26 years as State Treasurer. Bob left office in 1991 but, as is often the case with extraordinary people, the best was yet to come. Bob entered the business world to become the CEO of the Nation's largest food brokerage firm, but continued his lifelong habit of being a volunteer entertainer at homes for the elderly, children and the needy in the Boston area with his wonderful group, the Treasury Notes. Some of his most ardent admirers are people who no longer see the caring hand of friendship and support in their lives.

Bob Crane has been called an equal opportunity schmoozer and is known as a bipartisan charmer. He answers his critics with a warm grin and a confidence that any negatives directed at him will bounce off like water on the back of the ducks in the Boston Common. He has won the admiration of both Republicans and Democrats at the State and national levels and his fans include this Ohioan who has joined him in singing the Findlay Ohio classic, "Down by the Old Mill Stream" to the delight of various political crowds.

A Boston Globe columnist once wrote, Crane is a full-plumage specimen of an endangered species: the warm-blooded, pre-Watergate politician who attends wakes, sings with a robust Irish tenor at weddings and nursing homes, and charms even his enemies with generosity and a smile as big as the Ritz.

Although Bob Crane is a Democrat and I am a Republican, and he loves the Red Sox while I am a Tiger fan, we share a mutual pleasure in golf; I agree with Mike Barnicle, the well-known columnist who wrote that Bob is one politician "who can still smile, who still thinks that politics means people, and one who takes his business but not himself that seriously."

Bob has been called the "Johnny Carson of Massachusetts politics," and having seen how he wins over even his toughest critics, I have to agree. Happy Birthday, Bob. Here's to 80 more years of razzle-dazzle.

FREEDOM FOR OSCAR MARIO GONZÁLEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about Oscar Mario González, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González is an independent journalist and pro-democracy activist in totalitarian